

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording information on a recordable optical record carrier by irradiation of a light beam onto said record carrier for forming marks and lands representing said information along an information recording direction, comprising:

a light source for generating a light beam; and
optical means for irradiating said light beam onto said record carrier,

wherein said optical means comprises means for influencing said light beam from said light source to said record carrier during recording of information, said influencing means using astigmatism to obtain a light beam having a substantial oval spot profile having a shorter axis in the information recording direction compared to a radial direction orthogonal to the information recording direction.

and wherein said recording apparatus further comprises control means for controlling said means for influencing the light beam by switching said means on or off by positioning said means for influencing into the light path during recording.

2. (Previously Presented) The recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for influencing the light beam introduces astigmatism into the light beam.

3. (Previously Presented) The recording apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said means for influencing the light beam comprises a liquid crystal cell.

4. (Previously Presented) The recording apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said liquid crystal cell has a cylindrical shape.

5. (Previously Presented) The recording apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said means for influencing the light beam comprises a cylindrical lens.

6. (Previously Presented) The recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for influencing the light beam comprises focus control means for controlling a focus position of focal lines of the light beam, said light beam having an intrinsic
5 astigmatism, such that a defocus is introduced during recording of information.

7. (Previously Presented) The recording apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said focus control means adds an offset to a focus error signal used for keeping the light beam into focus during recording of information.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method of recording an information on a recordable optical record carrier by irradiation of a light beam through optical means onto said record carrier for forming marks and lands representing said information along an information

5 recording direction, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a light beam;

irradiating said optical record carrier with said light beam, including, during recording of information, influencing said light beam, through the use of astigmatism, to have a substantially oval spot profile having a shorter axis in the information recording direction compared to a radial direction orthogonal to the information recording direction; and

controlling said influencing of the light beam by switching said influencing on or off by positioning means for influencing into the light path during recording.

10. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform the steps of the method as claimed in claim 9.